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USSR

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"ALBERT's" OBSERVATIONS ON "ROBERT".

From: NEW YORK

To: MOSCOW

Nos.: 12, 13, 15, 16

4 January 1945

[Four-part message complete]

[Part I] To VIKTOR[i].

In a special letter of 2 January AL'BERT[ii] reports, while demonstrating to ROBERT[iii] for a long time the advisability of setting up a separate group of two or three persons whose technical work (the delivery, filming and safekeeping of materials) would not be concentrated in ROBERT's apartment.[?] AL'BERT explained that we are not proposing to deprive him of the direction of the people but we want to create the most secure possible conditions for the processing and safekeeping of materials, since, judging by well-known facts, the KGB[iv] is probably interested in ROBERT's activities, and there is no guarantee that, as a result of some accident, materials he may have at his place when it happens will not fall into the hands of the KGB and that our sources would not be compromised in this way since at the moment everything is concentrated in one place. After many friendly conversations on this subject ROBERT agreed in principle with our opinion.

[Continued overleaf]

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It is possible that ROBERT thought we wanted to take away some of his people counting on getting better results and concluded from this that we were not altogether satisfied with his achievements. In ALBERT's opinion he succeeded in convincing ROBERT that our sole aim was organisational security. It must be said that on the basis of our workers' information ROBERT has been inclined to be critical and dubious of our ability to deal with the probationers [ST:ZhERY]. Especially indicative from this point of view is the incident with KOL'TsCV[7]

[36 groups unrecoverable]

..ILERON [BIBRON][vii] our worker; if ALBERT proposed this ROBERT would undoubtedly reject it. Therefore ALBERT is trying to convince him of the necessity of setting up a small group whose technical work would be concentrated outside ROBERT's apartment, ROBERT retaining the general direction of it.

[Part II] It has been decided to train ACORN [ZHOLUD'][viii] and ZHENYA[viii] for the processing of materials in their own apartment. The couple [SUPRUGI][b] are conscientious, capable and fairly well disciplined. Notwithstanding, however, their devotion to the FELLOWCOUNTRY[IX] [ZEMLYAKI][ix] and personally to ROBERT, the latter has from time to time complained of their caprices. Thus a few weeks ago DORA[X] told ELL[xi] in ROBERT's and PILOT's[xii] presence that the couple were trying to get themselves free of us. ALBERT does not regard this seriously but he no longer doubts that it costs ROBERT great pains to keep the couple and the other probationers [ST:ZhERY] in check and to get good work out of them. Being their leader in the FELLOWCOUNTRYONLY line ROBERT has the opportunity to give them orders.

In ALBERT's opinion our workers would hardly manage to work with the same success under the FELLOWCOUNTRYONLY flag. We may possibly set up direct liaison with ACORN, BILERON and the rest, but it is doubtful whether we could secure from them the same results as ROBERT, who, constantly dealing with them, has many advantages over us. The whole group [D. of ROBERT's]

[54 groups unrecoverable]

[Part III] ROBERT reacted very unfavourably saying that before ALBERT's time somebody else tried to part him and PILOT, that he did not believe in our orthodox methods and so on. As he said, it would not be hard to separate PILOT from him, but he

[32 groups unrecoverable]

[D. PILOT] will not cool off towards our work. It goes without saying that PILOT is not so deeply devoted to us as ROBERT and DORA are, for he comes from a well-to-do

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family of western TOWNSMEN (GOROZHANE) [xiii]. In AL'BERT's opinion, for PILOT's successful work we are in large measure indebted to ROBERT and DORA, who treat PILOT very solicitously, and in the near future we shall gain nothing at the cost of separating PILOT from ROBERT. AL'BERT is trying not to permit a joint business (BIZNES) like a farm or an aerodrome and has advised ROBERT to let PILOT work out this project himself if the latter is sure of success saying that in case of need we should render PILOT some financial support. In AL'BERT's opinion the project is unrealisable and later they will drop it.

ROBERT is displeased by our interference in his personal affairs, which is what he considers the farm to be. In his words, all these years he and the others have worked at high pressure and they want to acquire a farm rather for relaxation than as a cover. For a long time PILOT and DORA have been drawing up all kinds of plans relative to the farm.

[Part IV]

In PILOT's opinion the farm will be a good pretext for his absence [c] in CARTHAGE (KARTAGEN) [xiv] in case of dismissal, for having been dismissed he could hardly remain in CARTHAGE even temporarily without legal [d] income. Seeing how much they were carried away by the idea AL'BERT did not consider it wise to insist

(29 groups unrecoverable)

leadership of this new group will have to be left to ROBERT.

That has been expounded does not mean that the mutual relations of AL'BERT with ROBERT are strained or that ROBERT does not want to obey us. ROBERT esteems AL'BERT highly and would not [2 groups unrecovered] any request of ours if AL'BERT insisted. AL'BERT does not doubt that ROBERT would introduce him to any of his people if AL'BERT requested, for organisationally ROBERT has become very close to us.

AL'BERT emphasises the soundness and timeliness of the award and the gift to ROBERT, who is pleased at our high evaluation [of him] [e].

Note by the Office (KONTOR). In the same letter AL'BERT adduces short biographical data on ACORN and ZHENYA which we shall send by post.

No. 6
4 January

MAY (M:J) [xv]

(T.N. and Comments overleaf)

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F.N.: [a] This sentence contains a similar anacoluthon in the original. Presumably some part of the subordinate clause has been omitted.

[b] SUPRUGI means "couple" in the sense of a married couple.

[c] Presumably an error for "presence".

[d] I.e., overt.

[e] Inserted by the translator.

Comments: [i] VIKTOR: probably Lt.-General P.M. FITIN.

[ii] AL'BERT: not identified.

[iii] ROBERT: Nathan Gregory SILVERMASTER.

[iv] KHITA: the F.B.I.

[v] KOL'TSOV: not identified.

[vi] ELERON: not identified.

[vii] ZhOLUD': possibly Bella [originally Bela ?] GOLD.

[viii] ZHENYA: possibly Sonia Steinman GOLD.

[ix] ZEMLYAKI: members of the Communist Party.

[x] DORA: Helen Vitte SILVERMASTER.

[xi] EL': not identified.

[xii] PILOT: possibly William Ludwig ULLMAN.

[xiii] GOROZHNE: Americans.

[xiv] KARFAGEN: WASHINGTON, D.C.

[xv] MIJ: MGB resident in NEW YORK.

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